



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Privacy Act of 1974: Matching Program

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice of a New Computer Matching Program.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) intends to conduct a recurring computer matching program. This will match personnel records of the Department of Defense (DoD) with VA records of benefit recipients under the Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty, Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserve, Post-9/11 GI Bill, and Reserve Educational Assistance Program. The goal of these matches is to identify the eligibility status of veterans, servicemembers, and reservists who have applied for or who are receiving education benefit payments under the Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty, Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserve, Post-9/11 GI Bill, and Reserve Educational Assistance Program. The purpose of the match is to enable VA to verify that individuals meet the conditions of military service and eligibility criteria for payment of benefits determined by VA under the Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty, Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserve, Post-9/11 GI Bill, and Reserve Educational Assistance Program.

DATES: Comments on this match must be received no later than 30 days after date of publication in the Federal Register. If no public comment is received during the period allowed for comment or unless otherwise published in the Federal Register by VA, the match will become effective 30 days after date of publication in the Federal Register. If VA receives public comments, VA shall review the comments to determine whether any

changes to the notice are necessary. This matching program will continue to be in effect for 18 months. At the expiration of 18 months after the commencing date, the Departments may renew the agreement for another 12 months.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted through www.Regulations.gov; by mail or hand-delivery to Director, Regulation Policy and Management (00REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave. NW, Room 1064, Washington, DC 20420; or by fax to (202) 273-9026 (not a toll-free number). Comments should indicate that they are submitted in response to CMA VBA/DoD MGIB. All comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Room 1063B, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays). Please call (202) 461-4902 (this is not a toll-free number) for an appointment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eric Patterson, Strategy, Legislative Development and Implementation Chief, Education Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461-9830.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This information is required by paragraph 6c of the “Guidelines on the Conduct of Matching Programs” issued by OMB (54 FR 25818), as amended by OMB Circular A-130, 65 FR 77677 (2000). The current matching agreement with the Department of Defense (DoD) expires March 27, 2018. The legal authority to conduct this match is 38 U.S.C. 5106, which requires any Federal department or agency to provide VA such information as VA requests for the purposes of determining eligibility for benefits, or verifying other information with respect to

payment of benefits. A copy of the notice has been provided to both Houses of Congress and OMB. The matching program is subject to their review.

Participating Agencies: This computer match is between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Defense (DoD).

Authority for Conducting the Matching Program: The authority to conduct this match is the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a and 38 U.S.C. 3684A(a)(1).

Purpose(s): This agreement establishes the conditions under which the Department of Defense (DoD) agrees to disclose information regarding eligibility to education benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill, Reserve Educational Assistance Program, and the Post-9/11 GI Bill to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The purpose of this computer matching program between VA and DoD is to verify that individuals meet the conditions of military service and eligibility criteria for payment of benefits determined by VA under four enacted programs.

Categories of Individuals: Veterans, Servicemembers, Reservists and Dependents.

Categories of Records: Department of Defense (DoD), as the source agency, will provide to VA the eligibility records on DoD individuals consisting of data elements which contains specific data relating to the requirements for eligibility including data on member contribution amounts, service periods, and transfer of entitlement. VA will match on attributes, including Social Security Number (SSN), DoD Electronic Data Interchange Personal Identifier (EDIPI - or VA_ID), Date-of-Birth, Last Name, and File Identification Number.

System(s) Of Records: The records covered include eligibility records extracted from DoD personnel files and benefit records that VA establishes for all individuals who have

applied for and/or are receiving, or have received education benefit payments under the Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty, Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserve, Post-9/11 GI Bill, and Reserve Educational Assistance Program. These benefit records are contained in a VA system of records identified as 58VA21/ 22/28 entitled: Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records—VA, first published in the Federal Register at 74 FR 9294 (March 3, 1976), and last amended at 77 F42593 (July 19, 2012), and DoD updated their Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting Systems (DEERS) 81 FR 49210 (July 27, 2016) with other amendments as cited therein.

Signing Authority

The Senior Agency Official for Privacy, or designee, approved this document and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs. John Oswalt, Executive Director for Privacy, Department of Veterans Affairs approved this document on March 19, 2018 for publication.

Dated: April 23, 2018

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VA Privacy Service

Office of Privacy Information and Identity Protection

Office of Quality, Privacy and Risk

Office of Information and Technology

Department of Veterans Affairs

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